

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3171

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12413

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS - UN SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

1. WORKING GROUP (WG) STAGGERED TO AN INFORMAL BEGINNING TODAY AT THE PALAIS WITH ONLY TWO OF ITS FIVE-MEMBER COMMITTEE PRESENT, AMBASSADOR CARTER AND AMBASSADOR JIMETA (NIGERIA).

2. OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERGEI SMIRNOFF (USSR) AND S.S. PIRZADA (PAKISTAN) ARE DUE WEDNESDAY, 16 AUGUST, AND H. HALGUIN (COLOMBIA) IS DUE NEXT MONDAY, 21 AUGUST. THE WG WAS WITHOUT A QUORUM TODAY BUT JIMETA AND CARTER SELECTED COMPLAINTS THEY WOULD STUDY FALLING UNDER CERTAIN OF THE ARTICLES OF THE U.N. DECLARATION, THAT IS, CARTER WILL HANDLE COMPLAINTS UNDER ARTICLES 2 AND 7 (WHICH RELATE TO DENIAL OF RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATORY PATTERNS) AND JIMETA ARTICLES 3 AND 5 (WHICH RELATE TO LIFE AND PROHIBITION OF TORTURE, ETC.). SMIRNOFF HAD SENT WORD THAT AS IN THE PAST, HE WOULD LIKE TO STUDY COMPLAINTS UNDER ARTICLES 13 AND 16 (FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND RIGHT TO MARRY). IT IS EXPECTED THAT PIRZADA WILL EXAMINE COMPLAINTS UNDER ARTICLES 9, 10 AND 11 (FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY ARREST, FAIR TRIAL, ROLE OF JUDICIARY, ETC.) AND HALGUIN ARTICLES 18, 19 AND 20 (FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION; ASSEMBLY). THESE LATTER TWO CATEGORIES OF ARTICLES DO NOT HAVE AS MANY COMPLAINTS AS THE OTHER CATEGORIES AND SO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY CAN

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BE EXAMINED WITHIN THE PERIOD OF TIME AVAILABLE TO THOSE
WG MEMBERS.

3. MEANWHILE, THIS YEAR'S WORKING GROUP WILL BE LOOKING
AT A TOTAL OF 25,518 COMMUNICATIONS ALLEDGING HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN 91 MEMBER STATES AND ONE NON-MEMBER STATE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS IS UP FROM 18,842 COMMUNICATIONS
LAST YEAR. THERE ARE 188 GOVERNMENT REPLIES FROM 45
MEMBER STATES THIS YEAR, WHICH IS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE
OVER 1977 WHEN THERE WERE 129 GOVERNMENT REPLIES FROM 36
MEMBER STATES.
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